(b) The MEGSAT Scheme is being implemented through existing training institutions and by utilising the expertise and facilities available in academic and research institutions. As such, it is not proposed to set up or equip any institution for this purpose.

(c) Under the Scheme, private institutions e.g. voluntary agencies and non governmental organisations having past experience in related fields can be considered for providing financial assistance to meet the cost of training only.

TWENTY YEAR OLD PREDICTION ON RECENT EARTHQUAKE

3269. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD :
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two geophysicist Shri N. G. Neogi and N. Krishna Brahman had predicted 20 years ago that an earthquake would occur in the fault zone of the Kurduwadi rift valley beneath the Deccan traps along which the epicentre of the recent earthquake laid;

(b) whether the villagers of affected villages had requested the authorities in 1992 to take steps as during that year they had felt quake shocks very often;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the authorities in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) Dr. J. Negi and Dr. N. Krishna Brahman in their note published in 1973 postulated the existence of a rift near Kuruduwadi extending from northwest to southeast epicentre of the Latur earthquake on 30-9-93 was, however, more than 100 km. northeast of Kuruduwadi rift as postulated by them. It will, therefore, not be scientifically convincing to say that the Latur earthquake was due to this geological feature near Kuruduwadi.

(b) India Meteorological Department, on the request of Maharashtra Government, a Senior Seismologist was sent to Latur for field Survey in October, 1992.

(c) After the occurrence of earthquake of 18th October, 1992 field parties were sent to Latur by GSI and IMD for survey.

(d) After the survey, a report was sent to the Government of Maharashtra, giving the scientific assessment of seismicity of the area and past history of earthquakes in the region.

मेघालय में यूरेनियम के भंडार

3270. श्री शारदा मुद्गली :

श्री सोमपाल :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 3 सितम्बर 1993 के "राष्ट्रीय सहारा, दिल्ली" में "मेघालय में कच्चा यूरेनियम उत्खनन का विरोध राजनीति से प्रेरित" शीर्षक के अंतर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर आकर्षित किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वहां यूरेनियम का कितना भंडार उपलब्ध होने का अनुमान है;

(ग) अब तक निकाले गये यूरेनियम की कुल मात्रा कितनी है;

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि उत्खनन कार्य में कुछ विदेशी कामगारों को भी काम में लगाया जा रहा है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उनकी संख्या कितनी है तथा इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग और अंतरिक्ष विभाग में राज्य मंत्री तथा विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री भुवनेश चतुर्वेदी) :

(क) जी हां ।

(ख) डोमियासियात, मेघालय में 9,500 मीटरी टन यूरेनियम आक्साइड के भंडार उपलब्ध होने का अनुमान है जो कि 9.22 मिलियन मीटरी टन अयस्क में विद्यमान है और इसमें यू 3O8 (यूरेनियम आक्साइड) का औसत ग्रेड 0.104% है ।

(ग) अन्वेषणात्मक खनन कार्य पूरा किया जा चुका है और केवल 640 मीटरी टन अयस्क का उत्खनन किया गया है ।

(घ) जी, नहीं ।

(ङ) यह प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

FLEXIBLE COMPLEMENTING SCHEME

3271. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any review of the Flexible Complementing scheme has been under taken by Government;

(b) whether the said scheme will be extended for promotion of scientists in National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO); and

(c) if so, by when the extension thereof will come into effect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) An Inter-Departmental Group consisting of representatives of officers of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Personnel & Training and Department of Science & Technology has been constituted to look into the various aspects of the Flexible Complementing Scheme.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to extend the scheme to the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, Calcutta.

SETTING UP OF BANK TO CONSERVE MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS

****3271A. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have decided to set-up Banks to conserve medicinal and aromatic plants as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 13th December, 1993;

(b) If so, what is the location (state-wise) indicating whether any such Bank is likely to be set-up in Rajasthan and Orissa;

(c) What are the regions of exploration surveys assigned to such Banks indicating plans for development of natural data base, documentation etc.; and

(d) Whether any budgetary provisions have been made during 1993-94 indicating aid|assistance if any expected to be received from the World Bank and other International Financial Institutions, if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of India through the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology have set up three national gene banks to conserve the medicinal and aromatic plants in the country. These gene banks are located at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi; Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow; and Tropical Botanical Garden & Research Institute (TBGRI), Trivandrum respectively. There is no plan to set up such banks at present in Rajasthan or Orissa.

****Previously Unstarred Question No. 3305 transferred from 24th December, 1993.